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Letter dated 30 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 27 June 1997.

On that day, from 0740 to 1315 hours, 15 Turkish military planes violated the Nicosia flight information region and five of them violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, directly flying over the area of the monastery of Ayios Andreas.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the resolutions of the Security Council on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Moreover, it should be pointed out that these Turkish actions, which are highly provocative, took place on the very day that the Security Council adopted resolution 1117 (1997) and at a most sensitive period, just prior to the convening of the direct talks under your auspices.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations